



## VFC PROGRAM ALERT #6 - September 10, 2012

TO: Vaccine Coordinator, VFC Agreement Signatory, Clinic Manager  
FROM: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, Public Health-Seattle & King County  
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### VACCINE SUPPLY NEWS

- **VARIVAX** (varicella vaccine): Merck is using all 14 business days allowed by its contract with CDC to ship vaccine. Expect your Varivax delivery 2-3 weeks following VFC approval. Check your confirmation fax.
- **PROQUAD**: Merck has confirmed that ProQuad (MMR-V) will again be available in the US. You will receive a revised Vaccine Request form when it is possible to order MMR-V through the VFC Program.
- **Tdap FOR ADULTS**: The state Department of Health-supported adult Tdap program has ended. The adult Tdap order set will no longer appear in the Immunization Registry Vaccine Ordering module. Providers needing adult Tdap vaccine can apply to the Give Immunity Fight Transmission (GIFT) Program. The link to the application is [www.americares.org/dma/adacel](http://www.americares.org/dma/adacel). For more information about the AmeriCares free clinic inventory program, contact Morgan White at 203-658-9500.
- **PENTACEL**: Sanofi-Pasteur has announced that the Pentacel shortage is expected to continue into March 2013. VFC programs statewide will continue to operate under a monthly allocation process for Pentacel throughout the shortage. We expect King County's allocation to be consistent with what it has been since April, when the shortage was first announced.
  - ✓ Single Component Vaccines: DTaP, IPV and HIB vaccines are available. Order enough of these vaccines to offset the lack of Pentacel (about +35%). Sanofi is currently limiting private sector purchases of Daptacel only (VFC supply is not reduced).
  - ✓ Combination Vaccines: Providers may order alternative combination vaccines (Pediarix, Kinrix) to meet the DTaP/IPV and Hib vaccine needs for all their patients less than 19 years of age.
  - ✓ Be careful not to overstock with DTaP-containing vaccines! Many providers are overdoing it with the various DTaP vaccine options. Providers are expected to use all vaccines they order, including when Pentacel supply returns to normal. Viable vaccines are not returnable!
- **PNEUMOVAX** (PPSV23): orders submitted after August 26 were delayed due to lack of product at McKesson. As of today, all Pneumovax orders have been packed and shipped.

### VACCINE CHOICE

In October, the state Department of Health (DOH) will open the vaccine choice process for providers who want to change the vaccine products used in their practice. The provider choice period is expected to run from October 12 through October 31. **All providers wishing to make a product change must do so online, using the Washington State Immunization Information System** (formerly Child Profile). *Providers must also plan to use existing inventory before moving to a different brand or combo vaccine.*

### VACCINE RETURN LABELS

We are hearing from dozens of providers about delayed return postage labels. DOH has contacted the CDC, and the problem is being looked at (other states are having the same issue). Here are guidelines from DOH:

- Send only those vaccines that are listed on the original submitted Vaccine Incident Report form.
- Send the Vaccine Incident Report form to DOH (360-236-3597) **once only**. Print legibly.
- Include the vaccine name, lot number, and expiration dates for ALL returned vaccines. List number of doses returned **by lot number**.
- Do not return used or opened vials and syringes.

Send your questions to [vfcinfo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:vfcinfo@kingcounty.gov) !